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GEN. J. H. WILSON'S REMINISCENCES.

General James Harrison Wilson was born near Shawneetown, Illinois, September 2, 1837. His grandfather, Alexander Wilson, was one of the pioneer settlers of Illinois and his father, Harrison Wilson, served in the War of 1812 and was a captain in the Black Hawk war.

James H. Wilson attended McKendree College and later the United States Military Academy at West Point from which latter institution he graduated in 1860 and was assigned to the Topographical Engineer Corps. He served with distinction in the Civil War. He served after the close of the War in the Regular Army until December 31, 1870, when he retired to civil life, and engaged in railroad and engineering enterprises, but on the declaration of war with Spain, 1898, he promptly offered his services to the government and was appointed Major General of Volunteers and served until the close of the war. He now resides at Wilmington, Delaware.

His brother, Major Bluford Wilson served as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers during the Civil War.

General James H. Wilson has recently published his Recollections by the title "Under the Old Flag," [D. Appleton & Co., 1912], in which he gives his personal recollections of three wars. Being an observant man, with a retentive memory, and having lived a life of activity, it requires more than 1,100 pages of print, divided into two volumes, to record his recollections in book form. He was the friend of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Dana, McClellan and other great men of the Civil War period, whom he pictures intimately. He throws new light on many of the campaigns of that war, and many of his descriptions and comments are certain to arouse controversy. He has no hesitation in depicting the peculiarities and weaknesses of our great generals and public servants. He thinks Dana would have made a better Secretary of War than Stanton was. He says McDowell failed as a military man because he was a glutton. Admirers of John A. Rawlins will read with much satisfaction his estimate of that unassuming man. Of all Grant's military aids and advisers he ranks Rawlins as incomparably the greatest.

General Wilson served during the Spanish war as a senior Major General, and afterward helped to reorganize the Cuban government. He paints a ghastly picture of Cuba under the iron rule of Butcher Weyler.

As a narrator of graphic incident the General is both interesting and convincing. His work is not only a valuable historical document, but an unusually readable story of an active, picturesque life. We hope to review General Wilson's recollections more fully at a later date.